

THE MORNING STAR.

Registered as a Newspaper

Published Every Friday

VOL. 100.

JAFFNA, FRIDAY, SEPT. 27 1940.

No. 37

RIGHTEOUSNESS EXALTETH A NATION, BUT SIN IS A REPROACH TO ANY PEOPLE

While I—

Others have left the counter, the work-bench, the plough to follow Christ; while I—

Others have carried the burdens, have bowed the back and staggered beneath the load; while I—

Others have given the gifts, have invested to the utmost in kingdom, enterprises and human lives; while I—

Others shall sing the triumph song, others shall come with rejoicing bringing their sheaves with them; while I—

Others shall hear the welcome home, when the chorus of the redeemed shall praise God for their lives of faith and heroism; while I—

Asa Z. H. H.

"Great Britain Sunday" on Sept. 29

Fourteen religious leaders led by the Rt. Rev. Henry Tucker, the presiding Bishop of the Protestant Episcopal Church, have requested 8,000 Ministers to observe Sept. 29 as "Great Britain Sunday" and join in prayers for the British people.

The request says:

"We are united to our friends in the British Isles by the heritage of a common ideal of democracy and freedom and a common struggle to achieve it."

Sunday School Rally

All the Sunday Schools connected with the Methodist Church in Jaffna have a Rally on Sunday 12th Oct. in Jaffna Town.

Children's Tennis Court

A well-laid and attractive tennis court was opened by Mr. S. Kanagasabai, the President of the Jaffna Association and Mrs. Kanagasabai at "Udiyar Walawa" 4th Cross Street Jaffna, the residence of Mr. I. Anthopillai.

The opening ceremony was followed by a garden party given by Mrs. Anthopillai in honour of the occasion.

Dental Institute, Karachi.

Mr. A. Walter Berkman of the above Institute who was here on a short holiday returned on Monday last via Madras, from where he will fly to Karachi to sit for his Final. He will then proceed to Japan and is expected to be back next March when he will open a Dental clinic in the town. It will be the first of its kind in the annals of the history of Jaffna.

Jaffna Urban Council

A General Meeting of the above Council was held at the office of the Council on the 16th instant at 5 p. m.

Before commencing the meeting the Chairman moved that the Council do place on record its appreciation of the services rendered by the late Mr. H. A. P. Sureshchandra for Local Self Government in the Island and passed a vote of condolence, carried, all present standing.

Considered papers regarding recovery of service connection fees from incoming tenants in cases where the outgoing tenants had defaulted and it was decided to adhere to the resolution 17 of the Council passed on the 10th July, 1937.

Considered papers regarding recovery of service connection fees from incoming tenants. It was decided to recover service connection fees of Rs. 10, in cases where the consumer was disconnected for non-payment required reconnection; Rs. 4 where the incoming tenant required reconnection on the date of his application, and Rs. 2 where the incoming tenant required reconnection the day after or any date other than the date of his application. It was further de-

cided that the re-connection fees of Rs. 4 and Rs. 2 respectively should only be recovered if the rental in question was disconnected and the Council had to send an electrician to do service.

It was decided to write off Rs. 948.85 arrears of Electricity 1931 to 1935 as irrecoverable.

"That a branch Pastur Institute be opened in Jaffna."

New Use for Palmyra

To the man of Jaffna the palmyra tree is a source of unending wealth. Nevertheless it would have been beyond the expectations of the most optimistic to have imagined that visiting cards could have been made out of the leaf.

That however, is what has been done by the pupils of a Mission school in Puttur, according to the Puttur rural service centre report. A hundred palmyra leaf visiting cards were supplied by these pupils to the officers at the centre.

A Palmyra Society is to be formed in Puttur and with this objective in mind palmyra work classes have been started among the children from this village. Arrangements are also being made, I gather from the report, to supply palmyra bags to be used in place of ganny bags.

If this industry could be developed it would benefit not only Puttur, but the whole Peninsula. C. O.

Ceylonese Honoured in Malaya

Among those who received the Malayan Certificate of Honour on the occasion of King's Birthday was Mr. James Robert Vethavanam who visited Ceylon recently with Mrs. Vethavanam. He is a brother of Mr. A. J. R. Vethavanam, Divisional Inspector of Schools, Jaffna.

The "Malaya Mail" has the following reference to Mr. Vethavanam:—

Mr. James Robert Vethavanam has since his retirement from Government service occupied a prominent position in his community and has rendered valuable service to the State of Selangor, first as a member of the Sanitary Board Kuala Lumpur and latterly as a member of the State Council. His work on the State Council, on which he served for nearly five years, was marked by untiring zeal and that keenness which is characteristic of him.

He has always taken an active and leading part in organising social service in Kuala Lumpur and has been prominently connected with the activities of the Y. M. C. A., the T. P. C. A., the Boys' Welfare Committee and the Street Boys' Club. In addition he has been a member of the Selangor Asiatic unemployment Committee since its inception.

There have been few projects for the benefit of the community in general in which he has not been active and his assistance in them has been of great value. C. O.

The N. M. S. of India

The week beginning with Sunday the 13th October will be considered as the National Missionary Society Week for Special prayer service and sacrificial giving for the work of the Society.

The Summer School of Music

The Music classes, conducted at the Summer School of Music are undoubtedly giving a huge fillip to the study and growth of Music in the North. The popularity of this course may be judged from the number of students (160) who followed it.

The complete organization of the course was in the able hands of Mr. A. J. R. Vethavanam, Divisional Inspector of Schools, N. D., the Principal, Mubandram Kandiah, the resident Vice-Principal, was an enthusiastic second. The arrangements were all that could be desired.

The following are some of the notable features of the course this year. The Time Table was adopted to meet the individual needs of students. Staff meetings were held regularly to examine the progress of students and the more proficient among them were promoted to a higher grade. Every student was given the chance of meeting the lecturers who were five in number. Of these three were from India (2 violinists and one vocalist) and the other two were local men (one violinist and one vocalist). They were assisted by two Honorary lecturers Mr. Param and Mr. Iyer.

Personal.

The Rev. E. M. Weaver, Chairman North Ceylon Methodist Mission, is away in the Eastern Province on circuit.

—Mr. L. Karulasingham, who was away in England, returned to Jaffna last week.

—Mr. A. Selvadurai, Executive Engineer, has been transferred to Jaffna.

—Mr. C. R. Thambiah has been appointed Additional Commissioner of Requests, Additional Magistrate Pt. Pedro and Additional District Judge Jaffna, during the absence of Mr. W. R. D. de Silva from the 23rd to 30th instant.

—Mr. J. N. S. Raghavan I. C. S. has been appointed as the Agent of the Government of India in Ceylon.

NOTICE

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THE PASSING HOUR.

The Morning Star

Friday Sept. 27, 1940.

ADULT EDUCATION.

We are happy that the Department of Education is taking the question of adult education seriously. The Administration Report of the Director for the year 1939 records definite progress in this matter. The number of adult classes has increased more than a hundred per cent. There were 271 classes in 1939, while the figure at the end of the previous year was 129 only. It is hoped that not only this increase will be maintained, but also that the increase will register a steady growth. The Director in his Report of the last year's work says: "The courses in these classes are designed to promote the development of the rural areas in which they are situated. But English continues to be the biggest attraction. The attendance, however, has been very fluctuating except at the centres where wireless sets have been installed. A part of the grant of Rs. 17,322.94 received from the Carnegie Corporation of New York for educational development in rural areas has been utilised to provide 22 classes with wireless sets and a travelling cinema has been equipped with the balance. The cinema shows pictures of an educational value and is proving to be a great attraction wherever it goes." The Education Department is to be congratulated for having found an excellent use for the money received from America. No worthier cause could have been found for it than the cause of adult education. Two causes that have contributed already to the increase of the knowledge of the man in the street are the radio and the cinema, which will never fail to attract and influence him. Hence, the Education Department can rest satisfied that it has found a good use for the money.

Another cause for encouragement just now is the assurance given by the Minister of Education at the recent Budget Debate in the State Council that this cause is receiving his personal attention. He informed the Council that just now there are 16 teachers who are undergoing a special course of training, with a view to be in charge of the food production drive, adult evening classes etc. From next year, the Minister says, the number of teachers will increase to 50. This is as it should be. We in Ceylon cannot remain satisfied with the fact that the percentage of literacy is growing higher yearly. We must aim at reaching the 100 per cent literacy. We must also aim at making the man in the street and the farmer to be educated enough to understand his civic duties and responsibilities. Then only he will be able to appreciate and use his suffrage adequately.

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The Scrutator in making his bow to the public wishes it to be understood that anything he may say in this column is his individual opinion, and does not represent the views of the revered Editor.

THREE ANGLES

One of the most burning topics of the day is Education. Hard knocks are now being given and taken. Even that terrible little word of three letters that implies a terminological inexactitude has been used in our august legislative assembly in the discussion of this subject. In my opinion this heat is generated because the subject is viewed from several angles; the Department's, the Manager's and the Teacher's. The three angles however, do not form the right angle. The MANAGER'S ANGLE.

The President of the Headmasters' Conference lately complained bitterly that the Department was interfering too much in the management of schools. How can you carry on schools efficiently, if you are not allowed to pick and choose your teachers, reward, punish, dismiss or even transfer them according to your judgment? How indeed? The Management is pelted so with circulars, amendments, and what not, almost daily that the manager gets up every morning wondering what the day might bring forth.

THE TEACHERS' ANGLE.

Teachers' Associations have of late become quite vocal and even clamorous. How can the teaching professions be the "noblest of professions," if teachers are at the mercy of the whims and fancies of managers for their pay, prospects and pensions? How indeed? The DEPARTMENT'S ANGLE.

The lot of the Minister and the Director of Education is quite unenviable. They have to steer between the Charibdis of the Manager and the Scylla of the teacher. They realise the justifiability of the contention of the manager. They see the reasonableness of the teacher's position that his three P's should be secured for him. I sometimes think that the authorities are in the position of that much abused beast standing between the proverbial haystacks. In weighing the relative claims of the two parties, at one time the manager's side of the scales went down, and just now it is the teacher's. The task of the powers-that-be reminds me also of our Darwinian ancestor trying to adjudicate between two cats that had stolen a piece of cheese. To carry the analogy further, I wonder whether anything will be left to the manager and the teacher if this kind of arbitration goes on longer.

THE RIGHT ANGLE

Generally, controversies send the parties to the ends, leaving the truth in the middle. There is a golden mean, if I may diagnose the trouble, it is due to there being managers and managers. The thing to do is to draw the line between the honest and the dishonest manager. Indeed the latter should be eliminated as soon as possible. But who will reb the cat? Ay, there is the rub! But the authorities should undertake this task, however odious it may be.

THE GORDIAN KNOT

Why not cut the Gordian knot, and make all schools state schools? But that is not within the range of practical politics. There is, however, a *via media*. I tremble to think what would happen to my devoted head if I venture to disclose it now. I will possess my soul in patience till the atmosphere is not charged with so much electricity.

MEND IT OR END IT

The paradoxical thing called "forced contribution" is just now in the air. It is an open secret—in one case at least it is not that scores and scores of managers levy "contributions" from teachers in spite of a rule forbidding it. There are three evils in this practice. First, the poor teacher loses part of his salary. Secondly, there is unfair competition between honest and dishonest managers. Thirdly, the cause of the grant goes into the pockets of managers. The Department is utterly helpless in this matter, as it is a conspiracy between the manager and the teacher. It is a sound principle that a law that cannot be enforced should not disfigure the statute book. The most important reason why Prohibition law was repealed in America was that it was impossible to enforce it fully, with the result that respect for law in general was lowered in the country. Why then keep this rule? No doubt such abolition would upset the salary scheme. But there is such a thing as choosing the lesser of two evils.

THE SILVER LINING.

Let me turn from our wordy warfare in our Lilliputian world to the great mass murders taking place in Europe. "Every cloud has its silver lining." There is a bright side to this terrible cloud that is overhanging the world today. War brings to the surface the hero in man. I will select one conspicuous example out of many. Who has not been thrilled with the exploit of that Lieutenant who carried that ton of destruction from St. Paul's Cathedral's yard to a distance of four miles and put it where it could do no harm? He knew full well that this time-bomb would burst at any moment and shatter him to pieces. Under such a nightmare, seconds would have been magnified into hours. If the journey took fifteen minutes, to say the least of it—the thing had to be dragged slowly—you can calculate the hours of agony he must have gone through. If he had not done this most heroic thing, that historic edifice would have been blown up from its foundations—the bomb had gone down to a depth of twenty feet. Fortunately, the Cathedral still stands—so does hero Davies. SCRUTATOR.

NORTHERN PROVINCE ADMINISTRATION REPORT 1939.

(M. Prasad Esqr. G. A. N. P.)

EXTRACTS

Local Administration: The local government bodies functioning in Jaffna District during the year under review were:—

The Jaffna Urban Council, the Sanitary Boards for the Jaffna District for the three Sanitary towns of Point Pedro, Valvettiturai and Kayt; and thirty-eight village Committees for their several sub-divisions.

The three year term of the office of the Village Committee for the Telipalai village area expired on June 30th 1939, was elected in accordance with the provisions of the amended Village Committee Ordinance No. 60 of 1938 which came into force on January 1, 1939. This was the first time that the franchise for the voting at the Village Committee election meetings was extended to women and it was encouraging to find that the women of this district though generally conservative availed themselves of this privilege.

Village Tribunals were established in the chief Headmen's Division of (a) Islands (b) Vadamaradehi, (c) Pachchilappalai Karacheli and (d) Panakari Tannukki excluding the Island of Irannivu, on November 1, 1939. With the establishment of these Village Tribunals the whole of the Jaffna District excluding the Jaffna Urban Council area and the Island of Irannivu has been brought under the jurisdiction of the Village Tribunals and thereby the Village Committees in the district have been relieved of judicial functions for which they did not show much aptitude. There is every reason to think that the establishment of these Village Tribunals is a great advance in the administration of this district.

The Maternity and Child Welfare Centres were established in the district during the year, one in Chankanaai Village Committee area and the other in the Village Committee area Patur. It is regretted that the Maternity and Child Welfare Centre at Delft which was doing useful work in the cause of the Village Committee was closed down.

Delft could not provide the necessary funds.

The Superintendent of the Village Works continued to do useful work during the year, in supervising works done out of government grants. He also assisted the Village Committees in technical matters.

During the period under review the majority of the Village Committees showed marked improvement and efficiency in the management of their affairs. On the whole the relations between the Village Committees and the Katchcheri were cordial.

The Late Dr. L. P. Larsen

News has been received of the death, in Denmark in June 23, from pneumonia of Dr. L. P. Larsen, who for more than 40 years was a Missionary in Madras and Bangalore.

He was Secretary of the Danish Mission Reading Room, Broadway, and of the Y. M. C. A. Madras, and from 1910 to 1924 was associated with the United Theological College Bangalore, for some time as Principal. From 1924 till his retirement in 1933 he was engaged in revising of the Tamil Bible.

We extend to Mrs. Larsen and the children our deepest sympathy.

Jaffna College Alumni Association

AJUMMI DAY 1940.

The Celebrations began on Saturday 21st September at 7 a.m. when there was a tennis tournament between the Old Boys Team and the College Tennis Club. The arrangements were excellent and the games lively. Then the Old Boys went in groups after morning tea and recounted stories of their boyhood and looked round the College till 12.30 when the College Lunch was served.

At 2.30 p. m. the Annual General Meeting was held in the Outley Hall, with Mr. Bunker in the chair. The minutes of the last Annual General Meeting were read and the Treasurer's report submitted. A vote of condolence was passed in memory of Messrs V. Sandaram, S. Kanapathipillai, C. T. Storer, T. Sittampalam and Joseph Jebaratnam.

The following were elected officers for the ensuing year. President: Rev. S. K. Bunker. Vice-Presidents: Mr. T. Baell, Mr. T. H. Crossett, Madaliyar V. Ponnampalam and Mr. D. S. Sanders. Hon. Secretary: Mr. J. F. Ponnampalam. Hon. Treasurer: Mr. E. J. Jayaraj. Executive Committee: Messrs. A. M. Govinda, V. C. Cathiravelu, K. C. S. Cooke, J. Subramaniam Lewis, K. S. Jayasingham, A. W. Nadarajah, S. H. Perinayagam, L. C. Rajaratnam, K. A. Chennai, A. R. Subramaniam, C. Subramaniam, A. C. Suddampillai, C. K. Lamba and T. Vazayagamoorthy.

Auditors: Messrs. P. Nagalingam and I. P. Ithararatnam.

Mr. C. S. Ponnampalam made some suggestion regarding life membership of the Association, which was referred to the Executive Committee. A resolution urging on the Government to restore the Vaddukottai Post Office to its former status and strength was unanimously passed. The reply of the Board of Directors, received the previous day, to the memorandum submitted by the Association was read and discussion deferred for another date for want of time. A vote of appreciation of the services rendered by the Association by Mr. A. W. Nadarajah and Mr. K. C. S. Cooke as Secretary and Treasurer respectively was passed, and the meeting adjourned.

This was followed by the Principal's Tea and a football match. While in Tennis the Alumni proved themselves stronger, in football they had to admit defeat. At 6.30 p. m. there was a variety entertainment followed by the Annual Dinner. Over a hundred sat and it was a grand success. The speeches were of a high order. After the loyal Toast Mr. Justice Nihill gave the Toast of the College responded to by Mr. Bunker. Mr. R. S. D. Williams proposed the Toast of Ceylon and Mr. S. H. Perinayagam

who was called upon at the last minute rose to the occasion. Mr. L. S. Kulathungam's Toast of the Sister Colleges was beautifully responded to by Miss R. R. Cheliah. Mr. J. F. Ponnampalam proposed the toast of the guests and Mr. M. Prasad responded. The singing of the College Song brought to a close a very successful Ajummi Day.

GOVERNMENT OF CEYLON WAR PURPOSES FUND

Since the 11th list was issued which included subscriptions up to the 11th September 1940, the Fund has grown from Rs. 470,516.03 to Rs. 531,206.25, i. e. an addition of Rs. 60,690.22. Rs. 3,000.00 of that addition is accounted for by the magnificent donation received from His Highness the Sultan and Cabinet of the Maldives Islands which has already been notified in the Press. The effort of the Social and Sports Clubs of Ceylon continues to yield valuable results. A sum of Rs. 5,000 has been received from the Automobile Association of Ceylon; this is the first instalment of a much larger amount which the Association is endeavouring to raise for the purchase of a lighter plane. Members of the Colombo Cricket Club have subscribed Rs. 2,000.00. "Mr. Fiserman" of the Ceylon Torf Club has subscribed Rs. 1,000.00. Members of the Kalutara Cricket and Sports Club have given Rs. 1,210.00 and a donation of Rs. 3,421 has been received from the Colombo Swimming Club; this is intended to be the first monthly contribution from this Club.

LOCAL REPORTS AT OUTSTATIONS. An interesting feature of the section of the list devoted to subscriptions from the general public is the evidence therein of successful local efforts to raise money for this Fund. Thus the Pata Hewahewa War Fund Committee has sent Rs. 659.00. The half-share of the proceeds of a Jumble Sale and Carnival held at Matugama Government School has amounted to Rs. 885.00. Rs. 232.74 represents the proceeds of a dramatic entertainment staged by the Trincomalee Catholic Club. It is pleasant to note those cases in which Firms and Estates are sending monthly subscriptions e. g. The European and Ceylonese Staff of Opatu Estate sends one day's pay a month while a monthly ten cent collection which, on this occasion, yielded Rs. 188.74 is being made among the labourers of the same Estate.

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